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His location in the hills involves the payment of a local allowance to his staff of about Rs. 2,600 per annum. On the other hand, his transfer to Madras would involve paying his staff at Madras rates and the securing of accommodation for his office at a cost which would unquestionably be higher than anything that could be secured in the shape of rent for the buildings occupied by them at Ootacamund.

Sale of pure salt in the Presidency.

748 Q.—Mr. A. T. PALMER: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(1) whether it is a fact that the salt sold in the Madras Presidency contains many impurities;

(2) what precautions are taken for ensuring the purity of salt manufactured along the sea-coast; and

(3) whether it is a fact that the salt-manufacturing contractors, by bribing the subordinate officials, can manage to place in the market impure salt?

A.—(1) In so far as the salt made in the Presidency is concerned, an extract of the results of analysis will be supplied to the hon. Member.

(2) A copy of the rules governing the subject will be furnished to the hon. Member.

(3) If the hon. Member intends to imply that subordinates of the department are bribed to promote the issue of one quality of salt rather than another, there is no foundation for his suspicion. No salt that is not fit for human consumption is allowed to be stored and the salt sold is issued as it is applied for.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"With reference to the answer to (1) and (2) of the question, I wish to know whether the information cannot be made available for other Members as well?"

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—"I would be very glad to supply it to any hon. Member who wishes it. I do not think that any hon. Member seriously wishes to have that information."

The Text-Book Committee.

749 Q.—Mr. A. T. PALMER: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(1) the personnel of the Text-Book Committee;

(2) what their qualifications are;

(3) whether it is a fact that much canvassing is permitted in the matter of getting books prescribed, especially in the vernaculars;

(4) whether it is a fact that in many cases books have been prescribed which afterwards were found unsuitable for one reason or another; and

(5) whether it is a fact that the price of books is enhanced after they are rescribed?

A.—(1) & (2) A statement is laid on the table.*
(3) The Government have not received any complaints regarding canvassing.
(4) Books are removed from the list of approved books when they have become obsolete and sometimes for special reasons.
(5) The Government have no information. If the hon. Member will give specific instances, the matter will be inquired into.

Selection of polling officers for Legislative Council elections.

750 *Q.*—Mr. A. T. Palmer : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(1) whether during the last election for the Legislative Council any principle was adopted in the selection of polling officers ;

(2) whether it is a fact that in the Northern Circars some of the polling officers were in sympathy with the non-co-operators ;

(3) whether it is a fact that the polling officers abused the instruction that they could sign for illiterate voters ;

(4) whether it will not be possible to make better arrangements in future ;

(5) whether it is a fact that in the last elections great confusion prevailed because of the ignorance of the polling officers in regard to the different constituencies voting at the same polling booths ; and

(6) whether it will be possible to make better arrangements in the choosing of polling officers ?

A.—(1) Yes.
(2), (3) & (5) The Government have no information.
(4) & (6) These questions do not therefore arise.

Depressed classes representation in the Coimbatore taluk board.

751 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja : Will the hon the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of nominated members on the Coimbatore taluk board, and how many of them are non-Brahmans ; and

(*b*) whether there is no member of the depressed classes in the Coimbatore taluk board ; and why ?

A.—Members of taluk boards are appointed by the President of the District Board. The hon. Member may address the President in the matter.

Adi-Dravida voters in the electoral rolls of Polur and Tiruvannamalai taluk boards.

752 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(1) the number of Adi-Dravidas registered as voters in the electoral rolls of the Tiruvannamalai and Polur taluk boards ; and

(2) whether they have nominated any Adi-Dravida representative to these boards ; if not, why not ?

* Vide Appendix A on page 1493 infra.